

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07 IO-13 DLOS-09
EB-08 TRSE-00 INT-05 /126 W
-----125825 120651Z /10

R 111445Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5044

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0150

FOR EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NO, SU, UR
SUBJECT: STATUS OF NANSEN DRIFT STATION

REF: OSLO 0017

1. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT IN HIS YEAR-END INTERVIEW
THIS YEAR, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND REFERRED AGAIN TO THE
POSSIBILITY OF THE NANSEN DRIFT STATION (OSLO 0017).

2. IN A JANUARY 11 TALK WITH US, POLAR ADVISOR BUCHER-
JOHANNESSEN REFERRED TO FRYDENLUND'S INTERVIEW AND ASKED WHERE
THE NANSEN PROJECT STOOD. WE TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD NOTED
FRYDENLUND'S STATEMENT AND HAD ASKED WASHINGTON FOR A STATUS
REPORT. WE ADDED THAT AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE WERE STILL
FINANCIAL HURDLES TO BE OVERCOME IF THE ICEBREAKER WAS TO
BEGIN ITS REFIT IN 1978.

3. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN WAS SURPRISED THAT THERE WAS ANY QUESTION
ABOUT THE DRIFT STATION SICNE, HE SAID, IT HAD BEEN FREYDENLUND'S
DISTINCT IMPRESSION FROM HIS TALKING WITH YOU IN OCTOBER
THAT THE US ATTACHED A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE PROJECT
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WHICH WAS PROCEEDING. IT WAS BASED ON THIS
IMPRESSION THAT FRYDENLUND HAD INTENTIONALLY WORKED A
REFERENCE TO THE NANSEN PROJECT INTO HIS YEAR-END INTERVIEW
TO SIGNAL THE RUSSIANS THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, TOO, HAD
LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN SVALBARD. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN
REEMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THE MFA AND FRYDENLUND
PLACE ON THE PROJECT AND URGED THAT IT BE CARRIED OUT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN LIGHT OF FRYDENLUND'S STATEMENT
AND GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, I URGE AGAIN THAT THE CONCERNED
US AGENCIES MAKE EVERY EFFORT RAPIDLY TO RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING
PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DRIFT STATION. AT A MINIMUM, WE
OWE IT TO THE GON TO TELL THEM WHERE THE PROJECT STANDS.
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